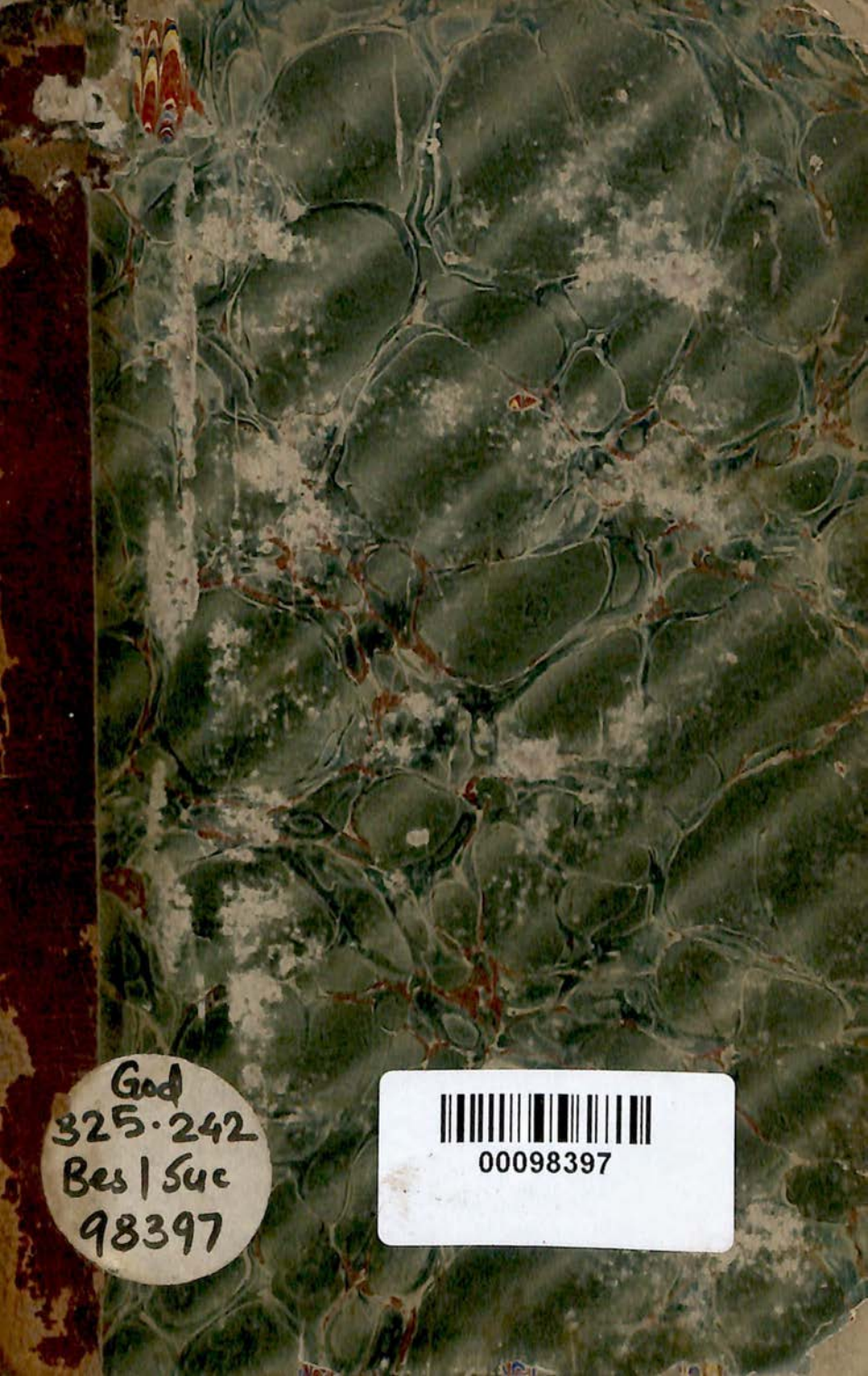
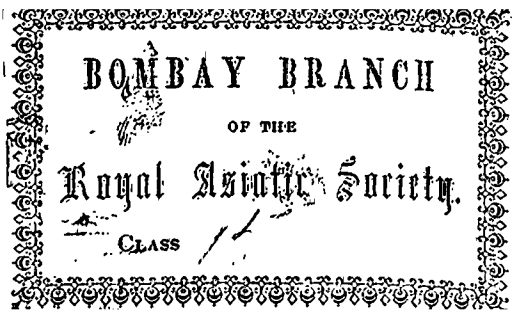

God
325·242
Bes | Suc
98397
00098397



Digitized with financial assistance from
Government of Maharashtra
on 30 January, 2020

SUCCESS IN INDIA,

AND

HOW TO ATTAIN IT:

WITH THE ROADS TO TAKE, AND THE PATHS TO AVOID.

98397

BY

JOHN DALY BESEMERES.

"If the right way you seek to gain your end,
The East will prove a warm and generous friend."

LONDON:
EFFINGHAM WILSON, ROYAL EXCHANGE.
1870.
One Shilling.

Entered at Stationers' Hall.

All rights reserved.

SUCCESS IN INDIA.

Beginning Life.

At no time in the history of England has the subject of emigration, generally so called, engaged the universal and earnest attention which it now possesses for all classes of the community, whether as adopters or promoters of the movement to facilitate the prosperity of our countrymen abroad. There remains only a very small proportion of families in every grade of society of which some member is not either already engaged in pushing his fortune in one or other of the British possessions, or else eagerly preparing to do so, and anxious to collect information which may guide him in the selection of the place which seems to promise best for his advancement. In many cases whole families, rendered despondent by the overwrought competition at home, and unwilling to separate from one another, are willing to transfer their home to some colony or dependency where their several qualifications may be turned to better account. Putting aside the last class, which cannot expect to improve its condition in India, it is remarkable that among persons who may fairly look to our eastern empire as the starting-point of a prosperous career, there should be so little prac-

tical information and so many false impressions of the conditions of life and society there. Yet the causes which have contributed to this state of things are not far to seek. Until within comparatively few years India was "a close borough," into which it was literally impossible for any one to enter without the sanction, under very stringent regulations, of the late East India Company. And since this monopoly was done away with, and the government of India transferred to the Crown, there is no reason to believe that the limited number of persons who have made their fortunes there have taken any pains to dispel the prejudices and misunderstandings which prevail concerning our eastern possessions; while those who have been unsuccessful have, like disappointed people in general, sought to excuse their failure by abusing the country, instead of admitting the disqualifications which prevented them from succeeding in it. Between the prosperous who dread competition in India, and the unfortunate who cannot bear that anybody should succeed where they have failed, the empire has never had a fair chance of popular appreciation. Therefore, without advancing any sweeping recommendation to any class to emigrate to India, I propose to explain familiarly the opportunities which it offers to various classes, separately considered, and also the conditions essential to the success of members of all classes there. India differs from most of the other British possessions in two respects; first, that it offers the best opportunities to the very classes that are overstocked, and least likely to obtain remunerative employment at home or in the colonies—*i. e.* men who work with their heads rather than with their hands; and, secondly, that its customs

and openings are so peculiar and exceptional that they require special education (chiefly *self*-education) beforehand to turn them to advantage after arrival. Without demanding too severe or comprehensive study from the intending emigrant, I may express my conviction that in no part of the world is *any* kind of acquirement that makes one young man superior to another more highly appreciated than in India. That which is not required in one office may be the stepping-stone to another and a better office; and accomplishments which are of no use in any office at all are of the greatest value in society, which is the disposer of all offices. This observation is corroborated by the fact of there being among the most successful men throughout the empire so very large a proportion of Scotchmen and Germans —people whose studies and tastes are not restricted within the narrow limits of ordinary middle-class education in England—people whose knowledge is more diffuse without being more superficial, and who, therefore, possess the greatest faculty for progress in India —the capacity to continue to educate themselves in a place where they will find no one to educate them. The best age for young men to go to India is probably twenty-one, or as soon afterwards as possible; and, once having resolved to go there, every pursuit of his life for the two or three years previous to setting out, should be subordinated by the intending emigrant to the grand object of succeeding there. The conditions necessary for such a course of study are neither perplexing nor arduous; on the contrary, they are simple and self-repaying all the world over, and need not interfere with the ordinary duties of professional or commercial life into which I will suppose most of my

readers to have entered before that age. They consist in *adding* to the discharge of those duties the comprehensive study of the scope and bearing of their profession on their future home, the acquirement of German and French, the exercise of English composition and of the faculty of learning vernacular languages, and of the cultivation of the accomplishments of a gentleman, and the taste for science and art.

I know no better word than emigration to describe the going out to India of young men in the pursuit of fortune; and I am, therefore, at a loss to account satisfactorily for the dislike, so common among Anglo-Indians, to be called "emigrants." It by no means follows that because a man "emigrates" anywhere he forfeits his right to regard and claim the mother country as his home, or that the word implies necessarily any very prolonged absence from it. On the contrary, few persons who proceed to India under ordinarily favorable circumstances will find themselves without the opportunity of revisiting England for a year in five or seven years' time, or of returning home "for good," unless they are more than commonly ambitious, in twelve or fifteen years. This observation will not, of course, apply to members of the Civil Service, who can seldom expect to attain a high position in that time, and must serve for many years longer before they can retire on a pension sufficient to maintain them in England according to Indian ideas; but it does apply to barristers, solicitors, engineers, merchants, agents, and the better sort of tradesmen, even although all except the first go out in the capacity of clerks or assistants.

Before entering into details of the prospects and

opportunities of the various professions in India, I should like to say a few words concerning the climate —that *bête noire* of fond mothers and timid sons. That the enervating effects of this same climate have been greatly exaggerated by interested persons is apparent from the number of "old Indians" whom we meet every day in the streets and fields of the mother country, where their health and strength compare favorably with the average of the inhabitants of our towns. I am acquainted with many gentlemen, of different ages and conditions of life, who encounter the weather with no warmer clothing than those who never left England in their lives, walk, ride, and shoot, with no greater fatigue, and carry as good constitutions into "green old age." The real dangers of India lie, not in the mere heat of the climate during most months in the year, but in rash exposure to the influences of sun and rain, and of the miasma generated by them in low, unventilated, and ill-drained dwellings near decomposing vegetation or stagnant pools. The most dangerous months are those immediately preceding or succeeding the rainy season; in the former the heat is excessive, and in the latter the sun parching the drenched jungle draws out a miasma which makes it very dangerous to live in any but well-elevated houses, and to travel by night. The true cause of the greater mortality in India than in England may too generally be traced to the imprudent habits of young men who would be likely to give way to similar tendencies anywhere if freed from the restraint of their parents. In the words of the traditional Irishman, "they eat to excess, and they drink to excess, and then they write home to their friends to say they've

been killed by the climate." The practice of having too frequent recourse to stimulants to repair the exhaustion of the system is destructive everywhere, but there is no reason to imagine that total abstinence from beer, wine, or even spirits, is essential or even conducive to the maintenance of health in India. Indeed, I have known more *very* temperate men carried off by disease or sudden illness than moderate drinkers. It is chiefly among the intemperate, the dissolute, and the lazy that the mortality is excessive; nor does the climate prevent men from working as hard and as long in the occupations proper to India as they do in England. Of course, out-door employment and handicrafts generally cannot be pursued for many hours with impunity, but many physicians, lawyers, and mercantile men work harder in Calcutta than they could do at home. The climate appears to clear and strengthen the intellect, and the habit of early rising, and the necessity and luxury of regular bathing, certainly invigorate the frame. The opportunities of improving the mind by reading or practising some accomplishment in the morning before going to office are far more attainable than in this country, where early rising is the exception instead of the rule, and where the late breakfast is scarcely swallowed before it is time for men to go to work. There is no hardship in early rising in India, because, sleeping in a thin loose suit, and on a mattress, there is no inducement to "lie a-bed" in the shape of those bed-clothes which some young people in this country find it so hard to throw off. It is a positive luxury to "turn out" and breathe the fresh morning air, while taking your *chota hazree* (or "little breakfast"—a cup of tea and a slice of dry toast), and

reading the day's newspaper, which is always delivered before six o'clock. The best rule is to rise with the crows, vast numbers of which salute the sunrise with a unanimous caw, as good as an alarum. Dawn quickly becomes day in India; the sun makes short work of the twilight, and an hour's ride on horseback, or a walk, before his power becomes too strong, is one of the best preservatives of health and strength. Then home to bathe and breakfast—breakfast proper—a meal at which the table is spread almost as well as at dinner. Steaks, chops, poultry, eggs, fruit, with the inevitable and ever-welcomed curry in some form or other, are washed down with tea, coffee, beer, claret and water, or (best of all) with iced water simply; and no meal in the day is so heartily eaten or so thoroughly enjoyed by healthy people who went to bed in good time the night before. Then to office at ten; tiffin, or luncheon, follows at two; the office closes at five or earlier, and most persons take a ride or walk in the cool of the evening before dinner, which usually begins about seven. Then follows music, conversation, or some other recreation until ten or eleven, beyond which latter hour few who adopt the foregoing routine will feel inclined to sit up, except on special occasions. Such is ordinary life in the capital of British India, and such, with slight variations, are the habits of most residents in all of what are not inaptly called the United States of India. Of course, in shops and factories the hours of business are somewhat longer; and in engineering and building yards, tea gardens, and indigo concerns, the superintendents take their surveys over the properties in their charge as soon as they rise. In the mofussil, or upper provinces, the breakfast-proper is

seldom taken before eleven or twelve (the *chota hazree* being a much more important affair there than in the cities) and tiffin is seldom eaten, a somewhat earlier dinner closing the day's gastronomical supply. At whatever hours the meals are fixed, it is of the greatest importance to health that they should be partaken of regularly, the habit of long fasting being more injurious in India than at home. No other precautions are necessary for the preservation of health than those which all prudent persons adopt in this country—namely, to watch and regulate the digestion, and to adapt the costume to the temperature, which in some parts of India varies three times a day, being very cold in the morning and evening, and very hot during the height of the sun. In the rains it is best to dress in thin flannel or woollen from top to toe, and to sleep in loose thin flannel suits, so as not to encourage or check perspiration unduly. Medical men do not generally recommend bathing more than once a day, but I have known many persons who have always bathed at least twice daily without any bad consequences, and I think this may be safely left to most people's discretion. Far more important is it never to attempt to walk even the shortest distance in the heat of the day without the protection of a thick and large *sola topee* (or hat made of the pith of a native tree) well protected over the eyes and the nape of the neck, and a large woollen or cotton umbrella, which is generally carried by a native servant. The slightest disregard of these precautions may lead to sunstroke, under which I have seen persons fall down in so short a walk as a few hundred yards. All respectable offices are therefore provided with *gharries* (or four-wheeled

cabs) for the use of their clerks when they go out; besides which hack gharries and palankeens can readily be engaged in the principal towns and railway stations. Medical men also recommend Europeans to sleep with their windows closed, the rooms being very spacious, though I have known few persons who have suffered from infringing this rule, even in the rains, the main object being that the sleeping apartment should be on an upper storey, the influence of surrounding miasma being believed to be unfelt above thirty feet from the ground. Owing to the suddenness of attacks of cholera and fever, and the uncertainty of procuring medical advice quickly, no person should travel, or indeed retire to rest, without having a small assortment of medicines at hand, not only for his own sake, but for the sake of others less thoughtful. Brandy, laudanum, quinine, chlorodyne, Cockle's antibilious pills, and Perry Davis's Painkiller, and saline effervescent draughts or powders, should always be kept within reach. So should mustard, strapping, and lint. I will not here attempt to explain the properties of the medicines, or lay down any general rules for their use, of which every young man can easily inform himself by consulting his medical attendant before he leaves home. Suffice it to say that, provided with them and a few instruments and a copy of 'South on Emergencies,' men can often protect themselves or others from sudden attacks of illness becoming dangerous before a medical man can be sent for, which is exactly what Dr. South recommends should be done in all cases at the earliest possible moment.

One of the first things that strike a stranger in India is the profusion with which the table is supplied

at every meal. Owing to the comparative cheapness of provisions, the heat of the climate, the false pride of the Eurasians, and the principles of caste which prohibit the natives from partaking of their master's food, the waste is enormous; at least twice as much as is consumed being thrown away. The contrast is painful to those who are not "above" the recollection of the spare diet of large families in the middle and working classes at home. In India, fish, flesh, and fowl, with numerous other dishes, are served at every meal; yet, notwithstanding this waste, the expense of living is not high, an excellent *bazaar* (the name under which all kinds of provisions are included) for half a dozen persons being supplied for about one hundred and fifty rupees (fifteen pounds) a month. Most young men employed in offices, on their first arrival, take up their abode in hotels or boarding-houses, for the accommodation of a bed and bath-room in which, with board, the usual charge at the best establishments in Calcutta is from one hundred to one hundred and twenty-five rupees monthly, but after a little experience, and with due introductions, it can be obtained equally good in private lodgings at from sixty to eighty rupees. Liquor and ice are extra charges, and the other expenses of a young gentleman may be confined to his *khitmutgar* (or table servant), his bearer (or body servant), his *syce* (or groom) and his *dhobee* (or laundry-man), whose aggregate wages need not exceed thirty-two rupees. The cost of maintaining a horse is about thirty rupees, but liable to fluctuation with the price of grain and grass. Thus, without keeping a horse, which is by no means a necessity, a young man may live exceedingly well for one hundred and sixty, or one

hundred and eighty rupees monthly—say two hundred pounds a year, exclusive of dress, subscriptions, and amusements, which are, as in every other place in the world, "optional," and, on the whole, not more costly than in England. There are excellent libraries in all the principal stations, and superb ones in the cities, and the subscription to them is very moderate, because in India every one feels the *necessity* of reading.

Thus, then, a young man can live thoroughly and respectably, and want for nothing, in Calcutta upon a salary of two hundred and fifty rupees a month (or three hundred pounds a year), and I do not recommend any one to proceed to India unless he has an engagement at that rate, or unless he has private means of supplementing his salary to that amount for at least a year. At the end of that time he will no longer be a "griffin," and he will either obtain an increased income, or have acquired experience to enable him to live more economically.

To those accustomed to the low salaries paid to clerks in Government offices, banks, and mercantile houses in England, and the very small incomes which young professional men can expect to realise on commencing practice, it may appear something like a mockery to suggest the necessity of obtaining a permanent situation commencing at £300 a year before leaving home. But it is not so; such situations, though not abundant, are not exceedingly difficult of attainment by young men possessed of the requisite qualifications, and energetic and persevering in seeking them out. All the Indian banks, joint-stock companies, mercantile firms, solicitors, and even the larger shopkeepers, have agents or correspondents in London,

whose names are to be found in the Indian directories, and who are authorised to make engagements for them. Every wholesale druggist in England ships to some dispensary in India where young medical men may find an opening. And, moreover, one or two of the principals in every concern of magnitude in India are generally in England on a visit or permanently residing here. Diligent search in the London and Indian Directories, and inquiry among all his connections, will be pretty certain to procure introductions to persons having influence to give an appointment to any qualified applicant. It is very dangerous for a young man to go to India "on speculation," because, if on arriving there he should obtain employment, he may be sure that it will be only temporary, and also that he will have to begin in a lower grade than he might have secured by a permanent engagement at home. Of course his remuneration will be proportionably lower, and he will have paid out the amount of his passage-money, which is nearly always paid by respectable firms in England for the clerks whom they send out. Written testimonials and letters of introduction are not nearly so valuable in India as at home, where there are so many opportunities of verifying them and making direct inquiries into the merits of young men intending to emigrate; and to remain long out of a situation after arrival is not only expensive, but also injurious to the prospect of obtaining one. Perhaps the best and surest, if not the quickest way to get an engagement is to enter some English firm having transactions with India, and fairly to state at the commencement that the situation is accepted as a stepping-stone to an Indian appointment, as soon as the princi-

pals have had an opportunity of judging of the merits of their new recruit. When I have added that the young gentleman in question should be prepared immediately on his arrival to devote some portion of each day to the study of the vernacular languages—by no means a difficult task, though one too often neglected—I think I have mentioned all that is necessary to secure his establishment; and therefore, after a short glance at the different provinces which compose the British Empire in the East, I will endeavour to point out respectively the opportunities they afford for the members of various professions and trades.

We are so accustomed to the idea of three Presidencies—the original division of British India in the old times of "John Company"—that few realise to themselves the fact that British India consists of not less than *ten great provinces*, each under its own civil government, though in military affairs a different division is adopted. These ten provinces are variously governed by rulers under different names; but they are absolutely independent of one another, and subject to the direct authority of the Governor General of India.

1. Of these ten divisions, the first is LOWER BENGAL, under the Lieut.-Governor of Bengal, a district larger than Austria, and with a population greater than that of France. In this there is a division again into the Regulation District, comprising Behar, Bengal Proper, and the sea coast of Orissa, and the Non-regulation Province of Assam, and the hill-country of Orissa, and the wild forests on the eastern shoulder of the central tableland. Assam is likely to be made another district government. This would lessen the excessive

area now under the Lieut.-Governor of Bengal, and would be a great benefit to Assam and its dependencies.

2. There is then the province commonly but incorrectly called the NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, a country as large as Great Britain, divided into thirty-five districts, under a Lieut.-Governor, whose official residence is at Allahabad. Delhi has been taken from this province and added to the Punjab. This splendid province is the land of the Upper Ganges, the original home of the Aryan race. Here centres all the interest of Mahommedan India, and here is found a population of 260 to the square mile.

3. Next in importance comes MADRAS, with nineteen districts, territory equal in area to Great Britain with Ireland, population of 180 to the square mile, and a land revenue the largest of any province in India.

4. Then follows BOMBAY with SIND, nearly equal in area to the North-Western Province, and a little larger than Madras Presidency. It is divided into nineteen districts, and its population is 170 to the square mile. It is not unlikely that Sind will either be made another distinct government, or else transferred from Bombay to the Punjab, to which it seems more appropriately to belong.

5. The PUNJAB, divided into thirty-two districts, governed by commissioners under a Lieut.-Governor, is as large as the kingdom of Italy. In 1849 Lahore became the permanent capital of this province.

6. Then comes OUDH, with a chief commissioner under the Government of India. It is equal in size and population to the Netherlands.

7. We have the CENTRAL PROVINCES, with their capital, the famed city of Nagpur, presided over by

a Chief Commissioner. It is one of the greatest cotton fields in India, nearly equal in extent to Great Britain.

8. We now cross over to BRITISH BURMAH, with its three divisions, and thirteen districts, under the control of a Chief Commissioner. It extends along the eastern side of the Bay of Bengal for nine hundred miles, and in Pegu has a breadth of two hundred miles. It is larger than Great Britain, and seems destined to be the great granary of the empire. There is no limit to its rice-producing capabilities.

9. BERAR is a small district, about the size of Denmark, under the President of Hyderabad, but administered by a Commissioner. This is also a great cotton field, and became very prosperous during the American war.

10. MYSORE is the last of the United Provinces of British India. To this Coorg is attached. The province is larger than the kingdom of Bavaria.

It is not within the scope of this sketch to say more of the numerous independent states over which the British power extends her protection, than that it is believed that many of them are daily becoming more desirous of imitating their protectors in all that is liberal and beneficent in their rule. Among the best works of reference for the history, annexation, development, and advantages of the various provinces under British Government, are the following:—Thornton's 'History of the British Empire in India;' Thornton's 'Gazetteer of India;' Kerr's 'Domestic Life, Character, and Customs of the Natives of India.'

The Professions.

I have already stated that is not my intention to enter into any explanation of the prospects of young Englishmen entering the church or the army in India, because no one would be likely to adopt the former unless influenced by conscientious motives, beside which the question of pecuniary return for his services would have little weight; and because no prudent man would enter the latter without being provided with private means sufficient to enable him to be altogether independent of his pay. There are few situations more distressing than that of an officer whose want of fortune deprives him totally, and for many years, of the society of wife and children, because of the impossibility of maintaining them in comfort under the present system. The records of the insolvent and divorce courts, and of courts martial generally, should be carefully studied by all young men before they enter the Indian army, unless they have interest sufficient to obtain for them some appointment, under government, independent of their commission. Such appointments not only open channels of honorable and lucrative promotion, but also protect young officers by comparatively isolating them from the dangerous society too common in Indian regiments. It may, however, be well to mention that public attention has lately been drawn with increased discontent to the numerous appointments of military men to civil offices. Not only in the police, for which they may be presumed to have special qualifications, and in the commissariat,

for which also their professional experience should adapt them, are important situations conferred on military men, but also in departments for which their special training would seem to give them no qualifications whatever, such as the administration of justice and even finance. That such officers have generally done their best, if they have not generally succeeded in justifying their extra-professional appointments, may be conceded; but it is not less true that this way of "making up" for want of promotion in the army is regarded with a sense of being unfairly treated by the members of the civil and uncovenanted services, whose sphere of ambition is contracted by the admission of "outsiders" to offices to which they think they have the first claim. It seems, therefore, not impossible that the number of such appointments may be more limited in future than they have been hitherto.

The Civil Service of India offers comparatively few prizes, and those long deferred and often intercepted, to young men without exceptional abilities, extraordinary opportunities, or powerful interest; and the uncovenanted service has still fewer attractions, besides being accompanied with a galling sense of inferiority which is everywhere forced upon its members. Several plans are in agitation with the object of making the responsibilities and the respect of the two services more equal, and some improvement will probably result from them now that all races of her Majesty's subjects are equally eligible for both, the natives being more sensitive to partiality and prejudice than Europeans. The difference in the bestowal of promotion and the privileges of "leave" and pensions is still far too marked to attract to the inferior service young men

of such distinguished ability as those whose labours have raised it from its formerly degraded state, though, taken as it is now, there is no doubt that, up to a certain point, promotion is often more rapid in the uncovenanted than in the Civil Service, chiefly by reason of men of maturer age, and consequently of more practical knowledge being admitted into it, and because the heads of departments, when members of the uncovenanted service themselves, feel greater anxiety to select thoroughly qualified assistants than to promote inexperienced young gentlemen, whose greatest recommendation is sometimes that, being engaged for life, some employment must be found for them. Notwithstanding the permanence of their engagement and the expense in time and money at which they have attained admission to the Civil Service, it is not so uncommon for its more energetic juniors to leave it in disgust at the slowness of promotion and betake themselves to other professions better suited to their abilities, as for uncovenanted servants, who have been promoted through merit and experience, to resign their appointments. There appears to be a general impression that, while the examinations for the Civil Service should be somewhat relaxed, the full advantages of engagement in it should be postponed until a few years have confirmed the promise of the youth by the performance of the man; and that some similar improvement of social status should be placed within the reach of uncovenanted servants after due time. It is said that the first qualification for a young C.S. is docility —the plastic formation of himself on the model of his superiors; I say *the* model, for if there is any peculiarity that distinguishes the old civil servants of

India, it is that they are all so remarkably like one another. Anything like originality of mind or force of character is fatal to the aspirant except on rare occasions. Promotion depends on his making himself agreeable to his chief rather than useful to his department; unless, indeed, he can combine both these qualities, in which case he may be permitted to indulge the latter so long as he claims no credit for it. Little or no material advantage is gained by passing the examinations with more than the minimum number of marks, because all the higher offices are still held by persons who were nominated by the directors of the old company for reasons into which examinations of any kind seldom entered.

Apropos of the examination for the Indian Civil Service, I observe that "the Secretary for India has had submitted to him some considerations which deserve serious attention. The number of candidates is increasing, while the number of appointments offered each year for competition remains the same. In each year there were three or four candidates who failed to score a simple mark in any subject, while nearly a fourth were unable to obtain one third of the marks gained by the lowest successful candidate. The writer who has prepared these statistics states that each year at least one hundred and fifty candidates competed, whose ability was of such an order that it might not only have been predicted of them with certainty beforehand that they had not a chance of success in the particular examination, but also that they had no chance of qualifying themselves even if two or three opportunities of competing still lay before them. An increasing number of the candidates are prepared for

examination almost entirely by private tuition, and few young men venture to present themselves from any large school without first receiving a special preparation at the hands of persons who devote themselves to this work, although it was a cardinal point in the scheme that young men might compete without special training. Numbers of young men now spend three or four years of their lives, at a time when those years are invaluable, in hopeless efforts to qualify themselves. They learn much that will be of little or no use to them in after life, they spend much money in tuition, and they lose opportunities of entering other professions."

I have made this quotation from unimpeachable authority rather by way of encouragement than of warning. The examinations, though strict, are by no means too hard for resolute young men of liberal primary education, who begin to qualify themselves for them in good time and keep their purpose steadily in view. It is only those who are conscious of incapacity for application or of some mental infirmity, such as nervousness or want of memory, who need be deterred from entering upon the necessary course of study. The general open competition takes place yearly. The office of the Civil Service Commission is in Cannon Row, Westminster, and the secretary will, if applied to, furnish all necessary information to any person desirous of becoming a candidate. The forms thus obtained should be diligently studied by every intending candidate with the object of frankly comparing his mental resources with the task which he proposes to himself. If after this he finds his conviction encouraging, he will require little more than the active ardent constancy which Foster (in his essay on

'Decision of Character') describes as a capital feature of the decisive character. "The subject of such a commanding passion wonders, if, indeed, he were at leisure to wonder, at the persons who pretend to attach importance to an object which they make none but the most languid efforts to secure." I need not quote further from a book which no young man, whatever may be his prospects, should enter life without studying and applying to himself.

The Public Works Department offers appointments to young men possessed of the special talents and education of civil engineers, surveyors, architects, and the like; and in no other department has real merit so many opportunities of distinguishing itself. Statesmen of every party are agreed that the security and development of India demand the extension of its railways, roads, bridges, drainage, irrigation, and mining works, to the utmost limit warranted by the revenue. Great fortunes and great reputations have been easily—some say too easily—made in this department; but there is no doubt that many of the works it has completed are monuments of engineering skill not surpassed in any other new country; and the opportunities which it presents are increased by the fact that natives and half-castes have not yet sensibly entered into competition with the British in the pursuit of this profession. Information concerning the open competition for appointments can be obtained by applying to the Secretary, Public Works Department, India Office; but I should not close my notice of this department without drawing attention to the fact that, even if unsuccessful in obtaining such an appointment, the special information which the candidate will have

acquired in the course of his studies may be turned to account in the independent practice of his profession, in India or elsewhere, instead of being wasted labour, as great part of the preparation for merely Civil Service examination often proves to be.

The practice of the law in India affords, and seems sure to continue to afford, remarkable opportunities of distinction and emolument. I have never known an unsuccessful barrister or solicitor who has not forfeited his position "with his eyes open." The natives are intensely litigious, and the European community so far follows their example as to maintain in full practice in all the principal cities a greater number of lawyers than any other population in the world of the same limited extent. The lowest fee that can be offered to a barrister in Calcutta, for the shortest appearance in court, is three gold *mohurs*, or fifty-one rupees (the legal *mohur* being seventeen rupees, or one rupee more than the commercial one) and other fees rise in proportion from ten to fifty gold *mohurs* for briefs that would be accepted here for three or ten guineas. Even with this extraordinary advance on English ideas, Indian barristers are too often so independent of their engagements as to make no scruple of absenting themselves altogether from the trials for which they are retained, or, at least, of handing over their briefs, at the last moment, and without notice to their clients, to some "learned friend" who happens to be disengaged at the time. Thus, causes are often begun to be argued before the bewildered client knows who is appearing for him. The lawsuits between Europeans commonly concern commercial and shipping disputes, questions of contract, demurrage, charter, average, and the like,

with a rather large proportion of actions for libel. The Governments of the Presidencies retain the services of an Advocate-General and a standing counsel at salaries of from £2000 to £5000 per annum, both gentlemen being allowed to practise on their own account as well as to nominate substitutes for themselves when they are absent; and few prudent solicitors recommend their clients to enter on prosecutions in which they might claim the assistance of the state without retaining independent counsel. A very fruitful source of emolument to lawyers springs from the great number of appeals from the high courts to the courts of Appellate Jurisdiction, and thence often to the Privy Council, these last affording gentlemen of the long robe opportunities of earning almost fabulous fees while ostensibly enjoying their *otium cum dignitate* at home. It is said to be not uncommon for native appeal cases to be conducted in England with fees of £5000 or £10,000; and such cases, involving as they generally do, the most intricate questions of land tenure, the validity of wills, the guardianship of minors, the right to family idols, &c., &c., demand the special retaining of barristers who have made a study of the laws and customs of the different nationalities of the litigants. The labour is tremendous, but the reward is splendid; and the natural consequence of this extraordinary legal harvest is that the bar is almost everywhere in India stronger than the bench. The incomes of leading barristers are so great that few can be persuaded to accept the less material dignities of Indian judgeships, which are consequently sometimes conferred on gentlemen who have practised at the bar at home with little success, and with less knowledge of

the laws which they are called to administer. Hence the great number of appeals, resulting in decisions of a zig-zag character in their progress from court to court. In order to secure opportunities of studying the native character, and acquiring some insight into the working of native laws and customs, it is a good plan for young barristers to proceed to India as soon as they are "called," if they have interest to procure some appointment as judge of a small-cause court (which answers to our county court at home) or as magistrate in a police court, in which latter capacity he is guided by the regulations of the Indian penal code and the principles of English law. The salaries of these officers are seldom less than £1000 a year, but few barristers of any ambition can be induced to retain them for more than a year or two in the face of the more splendid gains of private practice to which they insure a good introduction if their conduct on the bench is sensible and straightforward. I need hardly say that all the native evidence taken in the Indian law courts is translated by interpreters, sentence by sentence, as it proceeds; and this affords the young magistrate the best opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of the colloquial vernacular, and the due rendering of its idioms, an accomplishment which he may afterwards find of great service in cross-examination. The interpreters are generally natives or Eurasians (persons of European parentage, born in India) and I have never heard any imputation on their fidelity; but the Eurasians are preferred because, founding their speech upon English principles, they are able to convey the "sense" of evidence more shortly and accurately than the elaborate and high-flown natives.

For solicitors the introduction to success is even easier than for barristers, because, while the latter are not allowed to plead in the courts until they have been admitted in England, attornies' clerks may be articled and admitted to practice in India, thus entering upon the scene of their professional career, when commencing on their own account, fresh from experience of native business in the office of their employers, who will in all probability be disposed to grant them junior partnerships. The incomes of solicitors in good practice, and all the respectable ones *are* in good practice, is very large. The least fee for a solicitor to attend at the small-cause courts is three gold *mohurs*, and this is not a kind of business which they will accept from any but regular clients; while I have known a time—and not a busy time either—when not a single solicitor could be induced to leave home for three weeks, on a very pleasant journey, and to conduct a very simple case, by the offer of £500, besides his expenses. One gentleman, indeed, stated that he was going somewhere near the scene of action, and if it came on while he was there he would attend to it on these terms. His offer was accepted, but he was not present, and his client gained his cause in a few hours without any legal assistance whatever.

With such excellent opportunities it is no wonder that legal partnerships are constantly changing. I have known several gentlemen who have changed their firms almost yearly for three years, improving their position every time. It is only necessary to mention the fact that native attornies are admitted to practice in the high courts for the sake of adverting to the advantage of an English solicitor, uniting himself in

partnership with a native for the sake of the mutual assistance that they can render to each other. The native mind can more readily grasp the bearings of the causes of native clients; but even natives prefer Englishmen to conduct them on account of their greater candour, promptitude, and certainty. And while on the subject of law, I should mention the advantage of qualifying as notaries, a measure too often neglected, but one which serves to introduce a great deal of business, especially in ports, on account of the "declarations" which shipmasters have to make. And I should add that solicitors are eligible for many offices, more or less under government, such as registrarships and judgeships in the small-cause courts, besides municipal appointments of emolument and influence.

There is a minor kind of lawyers called pleaders who practise in the inferior courts, and often add the vocation of collectors of debts; but I need not refer to these persons, who are nearly all Eurasians or natives, further than to mention that they have to pass an examination peculiarly trying to Englishmen; and that, although their incomes are sometimes considerable, I would not recommend any Englishman to join their number. Any one who could hope to succeed among them must be capable of better things.

Medical men and surgeons may be divided into three classes: those who hold military, hospital, or government appointments, with or without private practice; those who practice in connection with dispensaries and medical halls; and those who confine themselves to private practice, and prescribe like physicians. The pay of army surgeons is notoriously inadequate, and their

position and prospects are so unsatisfactory that there is said to be increasing difficulty in finding candidates for such appointments. Conventionally speaking, there are no "general practitioners" in India as in England —that is, there are no doctors who visit their patients and then make up and send their medicines to them. It would be of great public benefit if there were such practitioners, and any medical gentlemen who would introduce the system might count upon very general support. The great objection to the present custom is the difficulty of obtaining prompt medical attendance and medicines in cases of danger. This causes an almost universal and injudicious recourse to patent medicines and nostrums, alike injurious to the health of the community and the reputation of the profession. Many doctors refuse to visit at all, even in cases of danger, and excuse themselves on the score of some peculiar code of etiquette of their own. Others will not even see patients at their own houses except at certain hours, and others make a rule of going out of town from Saturday till Monday without leaving any substitute. I have known deaths to arise from alarming symptoms being improperly reported by friends of the patients who have tried in vain to induce doctors to visit them until too late, though the distance to go was only a few hundred yards. I might multiply instances of unfeelingness happily unknown in the profession in England, but it is more pleasant to record the gratitude and respect with which the physicians—and they are not few—who appear to sympathise with their patients in the hour of danger, are regarded by the community. Surely no doctor ever practised among a more appreciative public. One cause of the

apparent heartlessness of some to whom I have alluded may be the fact that, before settling in India, they have had no other practice than in dosing ships' crews; and another may be that they are so immersed in joint-stock companies and other speculations apart from their profession as to cause them to overlook its dignity and responsibilities. But this is a temptation which in India besets all classes alike, and it may be urged in extenuation of the imprudence of some of the doctors that they only erred in common with many of the clergy.

Practised simply as the main employment of life, the medical professions in the larger towns is very lucrative. It is usual for single men to pay their doctors one hundred or one hundred and fifty rupees per annum for advice only; married persons and families pay proportionably more. The fee for a single visit is at least sixteen rupees. The charge for attending an *accouchement*, or rather for visiting the patient—for the doctor does not officiate—is one hundred rupees. The services of a midwife are retained for the birth, and she charges one hundred rupees also. Vaccination is generally performed by native assistants; and prescriptions are prepared by half-castes and natives, the latter being remarkable for their accuracy.

At the principal chemists' shops, or medical halls, as they are generally termed, a qualified English medical man attends at certain hours to prescribe for those who are not too ill to visit him, and in the sea-ports the services of another are retained to visit the ships and doctor the crews as they arrive. These gentlemen are sometimes partners in the hall, and sometimes assistants on a fixed salary for their attendance, with

liberty to visit and practise on their own account when disengaged. Their opportunities for forming connections in the most legitimate manner are therefore very great. The municipalities, the hospitals, the police, the railways, the great steam companies, and some other large establishments, afford good appointments. Regarded as a school for the acquisition of increased medical and physiological knowledge, India is a fine field for the student, on account of the number of subjects that are daily dissected in the colleges, and the opportunities of observing the effect of many native drugs, as yet little employed at home, but, I am told, gradually increasing in favour with Anglo-Indian physicians.

The medical profession is practised by qualified half-castes and natives, but their charges are not much less than those of European doctors, and confidence in their skill is limited to their own classes, so that, at present, their competition does not greatly affect the prospects of English practitioners.

As nearly every one who can afford it keeps at least one horse, stabling is scarce, horses often sick, and oftener "changing hands," a few veterinary surgeons may obtain lucrative engagements, generally leading to partnerships in the extensive establishments of horse-dealers and livery and job-masters in the principal cities. One of these firms stables not less than six hundred horses every night. The patronage of the present Governor General has also given a great impulse to racing. It is part of the duty of veterinary surgeons to proceed periodically to the colonies, select a "batch" of walers (Australian horses) and take them for sale to India.

98397

The Press is an exceptional profession. It has produced some very able and popular men of its own, but it may be doubted if any practical English journalist has added much to his reputation or his fortune by transferring his pen to India. The principal newspapers are edited with more success by military men, clergymen, lawyers, and civilians, of lengthened Indian experience and of confirmed Indian habits of thought. A great many external influences, which would not be tolerated in England, are brought to bear upon the press. Applications are constantly made to editors to suppress the reports of proceedings in the law courts, and even to expunge certain names from the notices of legal business, when the publication of these essential matters of fact would be obnoxious to influential persons connected with the papers; such as tradesmen who advertise largely, or officials who supply information "in confidence." Within the last year or two more than one "independent" journal have been induced to ignore its principles and reverse its arguments in a single day, on the return of the proprietors from home. Nor are the "amenities of literature," more successfully cultivated than the "freedom of the press." The partners in an influential paper recently quarrelled with each other by name in their own columns. The greatest newspaper correspondent of the age was constantly called "Dirty Billy" by the leading journal of India, and the editor of another daily paper of considerable circulation has the gift of calling his competitors "yahoos," "pariahs," and the like. These journals are all published in the capital cities of the presidencies. The provincial journals, which are almost numberless, have little claim to any influence

except the circulation of rumours, and what is called "racy" intelligence.

> "With the same cement, ever sure to bind,
> They bring to one dead level every mind."

Except the opportunities which it affords of acquiring a knowledge of the inner life of the natives, and the practical government of the country, an engagement on the press in India offers few inducements.

The condition of schoolmasters is even less enviable. Indeed, I do not know that it offers any advantages at all, except the opportunity of acquiring the vernacular languages with the view of returning to England and teaching them here; a branch of education which has not yet received the attention it deserves. The children of European parents are sent home to be educated at a very early age; teachers must, therefore, be content to find their pupils among half-castes and natives. If they set up independent schools, they have to compete with their inferiors in every sense of the word; and if they accept engagements in charitable institutions, they find their exertions to give a moral tone to the schools frustrated by the mixed character of the boys, the bad example of too many of their parents, and the intermeddling of self-important trustees or committee men, who are totally ignorant of English systems, and are apt to appl. the resources of the establishments which they regulate according to their own preferences rather than to the expressed intentions of their founders. The better order of Europeans cannot be induced to accept seats at the same Board with persons of this kind, and the consequence is that some noble charities are suffering from the grossest mismanagement. There

are some professors of music and singing in the Presidency cities, but, with few exceptions, I fear they are ill-remunerated for their exertions, for they, too, have to seek their pupils among the half-castes. Among the Europeans in India the fine arts find enthusiastic and sometimes very accomplished amateurs, but there is little or no encouragement for professors.

Trade.

A practical knowledge of native products, manufactures, workmanship, and usages, is so essential to success in India, that no one however experienced elsewhere should embark in any commercial enterprise without first entering some establishment as an assistant. Such an engagement made in England, and for a term of years, is most likely to lead to a partnership in due time, and should not be entered into without a resolute determination to retain the same employment. In no place is change, or the suspicion of a desire for change in his employment, more injurious to a young man. This consideration will show the importance of caution in making a first engagement with a firm of standing, and on such terms as can leave no doubt of *bona fides* on both sides. To this end it is only necessary to seek and wait for an opening to go to India, while unremittingly discharging the duties of a situation at home, and losing no opportunity of acquiring increased information that will be useful abroad. Keeping this object steadily in view, it will not be difficult to find a good introduction sooner or later, and the time spent in

looking for it will not be lost, because the intending emigrant will every day be able to fill a more responsible situation than before. It is not too early to go to India at twenty, but neither is it too late at thirty, so long as a man is ten years abler as well as ten years older. It is the frittering away of valuable time in vague expectation that tells upon the mind, and unfits it for earnest work when the opportunity is found.

Engagements in banks are not very hard of attainment, after a little experience at home, because the great banks in India not only employ very many clerks, but are also continually opening fresh branches and agencies up country, to which they usually promote their senior clerks from the head office, thus causing vacancies for new clerks there. Banking in India is conducted on a constant system of brevet promotion wherever it is justified by good conduct and ability. And to show that it is sufficiently rapid, I may mention that I know several young men who entered one of the greatest banks six years ago, without any previous knowledge of banking, and who are now in the enjoyment of situations producing £720 per annum, with improving prospects. When first engaged they received £200 per annum.

Mercantile engagements are not so easily to be obtained, because the number of Europeans employed in merchants' offices is limited, and because, in very many cases, they are the relatives of one of the partners; but they are little less remunerative for the first few years, and more so afterwards.

It must not be supposed that there are no clerks of

good abilities unemployed in India; there are many such, but somehow they are never preferred before young men from home. Some of them suffer unjustly from having been misled into engagements with fraudulent or unsuccessful firms, with whose transactions they are erroneously supposed to have been confidentially acquainted, and thus labour under prejudices which it is hard to remove. Others have rashly lost, or thrown up, their situations from want of temper, or have suddenly started as brokers without the slightest chance of success except in their imagination. It is unnecessary to add that debt, speculation, and dangerous company have forfeited more situations than all the other causes put together. But "these are weeds of every soil," and if they flourish more in India than at home, it is because of the greater facilities of credit, and the absence of the watchful observation and prudent counsel of parents. Young men who mistrust, or whose friends mistrust, their ability to withstand base temptations had better not go to India or anywhere else. There are few such good friends to be found abroad as to give more than one "gentle hint" to a stranger whom they see "going wrong." That disregarded or taken amiss they let him take his own course and its consequences.

There is, however, one temptation peculiar to the East which is presented so insidiously to young clerks as to require a special warning. Most of the great firms employ a *banian*, or broker, to conduct their cash transactions, provide them with native writers, or clerks, whose fidelity they are responsible for, make purchases and sales on commission, and sometimes

guarantee their debts for a further commission. These persons are very wealthy—at least, they have the command of a great deal of money—and some of them are men of great integrity and even liberality. But many of them, or their assistants, are constantly endeavouring to get young clerks into their power for ulterior purposes, and they often effect this by flattering their judgment, expressing their confidence in their "good fortune," and begging to be allowed to "go shares" with them in some small speculation. If a young clerk has a few hundred rupees to spare, they will find an equal sum, and induce him to invest it in the purchase of any article that he thinks will rise in price. The evil consequences of this manœuvre are twofold. First, whether he gains or loses by the first petty transaction, the clerk is tempted to repeat the experiment on a larger scale, which generally brings him in debt to the banian, who, so far from pressing him for payment, advances him more money (within safe limits), and tempts him to enter upon a course of private trading which is almost certain to ruin him in the end, besides being a direct violation of his employer's confidence. Secondly, by carefully watching the kind of goods which the clerk selects, and rightly judging that he is influenced by the transactions and information of his principal, the native obtains a clue to the business of the clerk's employer's trading, which he could gain by no other means, and which is of far greater value to him as a guide to his own larger speculations, than the amount of money which he advances to his dupe. I have known young men thus involved in difficulties, from which it has taken years

to extricate them, without discovering until too late that they had been used merely like the catspaw in the fable.

The shortness of the hours of business in banks and mercantile offices, and the great number of native holidays on which those establishments are closed, afford great opportunities for mental improvement, the acquisition of the vernacular languages, the cultivation of some accomplishment, and the pursuit of some favorite recreation. Among the last the game of billiards is most popular, not by reason of the skill it requires, so much as because it can be played without stopping conversation, and because the exercise it occasions is as good as a ride or a walk at times when it is too hot or too wet to go out of doors. Most good houses contain a billiard-room, and mercantile firms often furnish a table for the amusement of their clerks. The game is not played for money, of course, except in public billiard-rooms, which are dangerous and disreputable places to frequent. In places where everybody knows everybody else, men are judged by their company most severely. The frank hospitality of Indian society is proverbial, and after due introduction no young gentleman need be without respectable friends who will always make him welcome so long as he makes his company agreeable, converses easily and without "laying down the law," and unaffectedly contributes any skill or accomplishment he may possess to the general entertainment. *Apropos* of introductions, the natives do most things by "the rule of contrary," and in some few the English in India follow their example. The natives keep their hats on and take their shoes off

as signs of respect, and they write from right to left. The English solemnise their marriages in the evening, and on the arrival of a stranger to reside among them, instead of calling upon him, they expect him to visit them, and introduce himself. Of course this rather formidable ceremony for a "bashful Englishman" requires to be conducted with tact. The new-comer must call only on persons of his own station in life, and simply as a mark of respectful courtesy strictly ceremonious. It will depend on the impression he makes whether his further acquaintance is encouraged, or the reverse.

The course of promotion in mercantile firms is plain and marked. After a clerk has been for some years in the service of his employers, and has gained their confidence, he is usually advertised as being authorised to sign the firm—*per pro.*—or "by procuration." This announcement is generally regarded as implying a future partnership, at no distant date, unless some misunderstanding should intervene.

Next to clerks it may, perhaps, be best to mention brokers, of whom there are an immense number: stock, share, bill, freight, hide, and produce. This pursuit, which has great attractions for sanguine and opiniated young men, has been greatly "overdone" since the speculative mania consequent on the introduction of limited liability. It is, moreover, commonly regarded as a desperate resource for persons who cannot obtain more certain employment. Its profits are exceedingly precarious, and its reputation not inviting; and young men who may feel tempted to enter upon it will do well to weigh carefully the chances of their success in business for which they will be under the necessity of

competing with half-castes and natives, who possess peculiar means not only of effecting transactions, but also of influencing prices.

Retail trades in general suffer greatly from the prevalence of credit, the difficulty of recovering debts, especially from persons at a distance, and the circumstance of the Statute of Limitations barring claims in three years in India, instead of six years as in England. Many shopkeepers profess to sell for ready money only, but few, if any, are able to carry out this principle because the European community, as a rule, requires thoroughly good articles, and of the newest fashion. Therefore tradesmen are compelled to keep very large assortments of stock which must be "cleared off" somehow at the end of each season, when the remains of "old stock" are commonly sold by auction at such nominal prices that they realise little more than if they had been sold on credit and not paid for. The general indebtedness of Europeans in India appears strikingly from the returns of the Administrators General. When persons die without wills, their effects are taken in charge by the Administrator General of the province, who advertises first for claims against such estates, and, after realisation, advertises the amount of the dividend if the assets are not sufficient to pay the claims in full, which they very seldom are, although the deceased debtors are persons of every station in society except the highest. And such dividends are seldom paid in less than two years.

Risks and losses thus incurred by retail tradesmen are greatly increased by the deterioration of whatever portions of their stocks are liable to injury from the

humidity of the atmosphere in the rainy seasons, from delay or negligence in landing and forwarding them, or from unavoidable detention on protracted voyages. This last risk may possibly be mitigated if the Suez Canal should be commonly used by East Indiamen; at present, the cost of bringing out goods by the overland route is so high as to be almost prohibitory to all but articles of small bulk. To all these additions to prime cost are to be added the great expense of packages (perishable articles requiring to be packed in small tin or zinc cases enclosed in larger ones) and heavy import duties.

Hampered with so many drawbacks it cannot be thought that India is, generally speaking, a favorable place for retail trade. But there are other difficulties in its way. Rents are very high, money when required in small sums is only to be obtained at enormous interest, and the competition of European merchants and native dealers is very severe. Very many "merchants" sell small quantities of the goods they import to the general public, and advertise them for sale in the newspapers like shopkeepers, and this practice extends to some mercantile firms of the oldest and highest standing, whose names are sufficient guarantee for the genuineness of the articles they retail. Native dealers, on the other hand, from their expenses being very small, their risk of bad debts *nil* (for they give no credit), and their custom of buying goods at auction or of distressed consignees, can often sell articles at less than manufacturers' prices, and consequently attract the economical and ready-money part of the community to the bazaars, where many articles can be commonly bought

at half the prices of European shops. Not content, however, with the advantages of fair trade, the native shopkeepers exercise extraordinary ingenuity in adulterating the good articles which they buy, in passing off inferior or counterfeit ones for the best, and in giving short weights and measures. The want of confidence thus engendered is, practically, the sole reason why the natives do not get the whole retail trade of the country into their hands.

Notwithstanding many adverse influences, however, some purely retail trades—by which I mean shops where articles are sold "neat as imported"—are still remunerative to Europeans; and some even invite development; notably, hardware, ironmongery, china and glass, ship-chandlery, and secondhand books or cheap editions.

Trades which require the assistance of native labour are far more prosperous. Builders, engineers, smiths, goldsmiths, gunsmiths, pianoforte tuners and repairers, saddlers, boot and harness makers, upholsterers, tailors, drapers, lithographers, and printers, seem to be always busy. House painting and decorating, carpentry and joining, have not yet been developed by Europeans as they might be. In all the above trades it is, of course, to be understood that the only persons who can be recommended to go out are foremen practically acquainted with every branch. They will find skilled native journeymen of all kinds able to do their work well if it is properly explained to them and they are carefully looked after. Hindoo labour is the most tractable as well as the cheapest in the world. It can be applied to any machinery however intricate, and to

any mechanical process however responsible. All that it requires is the master mind of a practical and sympathetic foreman to subdivide duties, to explain precisely *what* it is to be done in each, and *how* it is to be done, and it will carry out its minutest instructions without troubling itself to inquire *why* it is done. The native is content to obey without reasoning so long as nothing is left to his discretion, and no blame is attached to him for any failure or miscarriage in earlier or later stages of the process than the one on which he is employed. He is quick at learning up to a certain point, and most anxious to make sure that he understands what is expected of him, and that he is "doing it right" before he proceeds to close his mind, as it were, against external impressions, and falls to work mechanically. If anything goes wrong after that it is the Sahib's fault, not his. The task of explaining what is required is greatly simplified by the *mistrees*, or native foremen, who are very shrewd and anxious to learn, being responsible for the workmanship of the men under their charge, and, in fact, being very often small masters or sub-contractors when out of direct employ. The qualities that are required for a successful foreman or superintendent are thorough knowledge of his trade, clearness and patience of explanation, perfect control of temper (so as not to confuse or frighten his men by bursts of irritability or passion which they do not understand), the strict observance of his own rules and contracts, and the fulfilment of his promises to the very letter. Let him reflect that every one of his stolid-looking servants "take stock" of his every action and every mood, and that every one of

them influences many others. I have seen seven hundred men and boys suddenly throw down their tools and run out of a shipbuilding yard in consequence of a rash blow from an English sub-foreman newly arrived. This was the work of a moment, but it cost the company half a day's wages without work, besides a promise from the superintendent that it should not be repeated. With encouragement and fair wages the natives will work with anxiety to oblige a popular superintendent. Respect to their religious ceremonies is, of course, necessary, with due care that they are not made the pretext for neglecting work. It is a good plan to collect all fines into a common fund, to be expended half yearly in sweetmeats for the natives. This shows that the employer has no interest in inflicting fines. After the completion of a job, or any extraordinary exertion, a present of a few pounds of sweetmeats, of which they are very fond, will encourage them to a little extra work another time. A little observation and experience will remove the apparent difficulties of an English foreman on arrival, and he may rely on receiving every information and assistance from the members of his own trade in other establishments, who are always ready to oblige one another.

The railways offer a vast number of situations in all the trades required both for constructing the permanent way, manufacturing the rolling stock, and conducting the traffic. Applications for engagements should be made at the London offices, where all particulars may be learned. The salaries are generally sufficiently good and progressive to allow experienced men to maintain themselves respectably and to remit

for the support of their wives and families in England as large a sum as they could earn at home; but unskilled labour, like that of railway guards, station-masters, salesmen in retail shops, and other pursuits which require no special training, is very badly paid in India in consequence of the competition of persons who have been reduced to the necessity of accepting any kind of employment, temporarily or otherwise.

In making engagements young men should be careful that a rather unfeeling clause, prohibiting them from entering any other employ, or setting up in business on their own account under a heavy penalty and at any future time, is not inserted in their agreement. This stipulation, which is too common in trades, places the assistant completely in the power of his employer, and is sometimes used as an instrument to reduce, or rather to prevent the increase of, salaries.

Englishmen on their first arrival in India are generally surprised at the dislike with which their countrymen regard the half-castes. I use this term in no disparaging sense, but merely because it is the common name applied to East Indians in speaking of them. These persons are of many varieties, and of every shade of complexion, according as they are descended more or less remotely from mixed parentage, European and native. Many of them are persons of good attainments, great industry, and strict integrity; but, regarded as a class, a little experience will show that the prejudice against them is not unfounded, and that it is, for the present at least, hopeless to endeavour to remove it. They associate chiefly with one another, forming a sort of society of their own, into

which it is not prudent for young Englishmen to enter too freely. Some of the young East Indian ladies are graceful, and superficially educated; but, from being brought up surrounded by native servants, and having everything done for them, even to needlework, they are generally wanting in those household qualities which Englishmen prize. They are moreover very strongly confirmed in their own habits and ways of thinking. Marriage with an East Indian is, therefore, for many reasons, a hazardous engagement, and frequently a barrier to success.

It is not part of the plan of this sketch to give a lengthened account of the condition of Englishwomen in India, but success in life is everywhere so intimately connected with matrimony that a few words on the subject may not be out of place. Perhaps in no part of the world is married happiness so common as in India, where young couples are confined so much to each other's society, and thrown so completely on their own resources for amusement, that they are led to consult each other's tastes more, and make greater allowance for each other's peculiarities than in countries where they see more company and have more cares. The standard of education and the tone of thought in the middle classes is higher than in England. Matrimony is, however, attended with greatly increased expense. Boarding-house life is not pleasant for married persons, nor are they indeed much sought for in such establishments. Rents are high; a flat or single floor in Calcutta costing not less than one hundred rupees a month. The climate is moreover not healthy for children above five years of age, and it

frequently happens that young wives are compelled to return home for a season, after being married for a few years.

The expense of the voyage to and from England is perhaps the greatest drawback to the prosperity of India. It is, however, an evil which could be materially lessened if the attention of the great steam companies or of Government could be attracted to its importance. The absence of wives at home, owing to the impossibility of bringing them out, or their detention in India when their health requires them to proceed home for a change, are both injurious—the former tends to demoralise young men more than any other cause. What is wanted is to secure good middle-class accommodation, similar to that which is supplied by several steam companies to passengers between England and the United States at *one third of the rate per day* that is charged by the steam companies trading to the East Indies. There is no practical reason why cabin accommodation and good food should be three times as dear on the one line as on the other; and the cabins and provisions are no better on the steamers to Calcutta than to New York. The only appreciable difference between the two lines is, that on Indian steamers wines and spirits are supplied *ad libitum*, and on the American boats they are charged for as they are consumed by the passengers—a much more equitable arrangement, since it does not compel those who do not drink to pay for those who do. But even supposing liquors to be charged uniformly, as an item of the passage-money, surely two guineas a day is an unreasonable charge for such an item. Yet the great

steam companies uniformly have set their faces against any appreciable reduction of rates, and the overcharge is not likely to be abated except by competition, or by some Government intervention or subsidy. Nor does it seem unreasonable, when large subsidies are paid for the conveyance of mails, that some grant should be made, under similarly stringent conditions, to secure the accommodation of passengers at equally fair rates. Cheap passages would contribute as much to the prosperity of India as cheap postage. Practically, cheap passages would benefit a greater number of classes, for the present rates of postage are an inconsiderable item to all except the larger merchants, who can afford to pay high for a convenience which adds so greatly to their profits; whereas the present high rate of passage virtually, and most unfairly, prohibits thousands from visiting India every year. Even where the Indian companies carry second class passengers, the "accommodation" and diet are glaringly—some people say intentionally—disproportioned to the sum charged, which is still higher than the charge for first-rate accommodation on American lines. The extent of this abuse is little understood except by those who are concerned with it, and can bear witness to its evil consequences; but to such it seems to suggest that, until the postal subsidies are thrown open to the competition of new companies established to carry passengers at a fair rate, there is little reason to expect from the present holders of steam monopoly any reform in this most essential element of English success in India.

LONDON: EFFINGHAM WILSON, ROYAL EXCHANGE.

00098397

Digitized with financial assistance from
Government of Maharashtra
on 30 January, 2020